Increase in the Prices of Butter

*5. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi and other parts of the country are experiencing acute shortage of milk and dairy products like butter and ghee;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the prices of butter have soared very high and it is selling at Rs. 70l- per kg. in Delhi;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) There has been fall in the availability of milk and milk products during the last few months due to wide-spread drought conditions. However, there are indications that the situation is improving now.

(b) and (c) There has been increase in prices of butter due to reduction in milk arrivals, increase in procurement prices and other handling costs.

(d) The steps taken by the Govern ment to ease the situation include (1) Liberalisation of procurement prices, (2) augment availability of liquid milk, (3) peg down the sale price of popular brands of butter like Amul, (4) import skimmed milk powder and butter oil, (5) promulgation of regulatory measures, to control manufacture of milk products and (6) increase fodder production by offering incentives to small and marginal farmers.

Fire Fighing equipment in Government Buildings

*6. SHRI SHARAD YADAV;
SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DE-VELOPMENT be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that according to preliminary investigations, the Gov-ernment buildings in Delhi are the main defaulters in installing fire fighting equipment;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government so far to provide adequate fire fighting equipment in Government buildings before their occupation?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DE-VELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) 120 high-rise buildings belonging to Government were found to be deficient in fire Safety requirements in Delhi, out of these 40 are under the charge of t"he Ministry of Urban Development and are maintained by the C.P.W.D.

(b) Of these 40 buildings in charge of the C.P.W.D., the position is given as under:—

— 8 buildings satisfy the requirements and do not need any additional facilities to be provided.

—I building is under construction and the safety measures have already been incorporated.

— estimates for 28 buildings have been submitted.

— estimates for 3 buildings will be submitted shortly.

(c) Fire equipment is a1ways provided according to the bye-laws in force at the time of construction, before occupation. These standards are revised from time to time. They have been made more string ent after the fire in Gopala Tower and two other similar high rise buildings in Delhi. Consequently, the existing fire fighting arrangement have to be updated, for which action is being taken as men tioned in (b) above. The total cost of these estimates will be of the order of Rs. 10 crores. A provision of Rs- 3,00 crores 'has been asked for in the revised estimates for 1987-88 and the balance could be provided for in the budget esti mates for 1988-89.